



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 647

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 5903

House of Representatives, April 15, 2015

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Public Health shall, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
3 Services and representatives of the Connecticut Hospital Association
4 and within available appropriations, study chronic obstructive
5 pulmonary disease.

6 (b) Not later than February 1, 2016, the commissioner shall report, in
7 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
8 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
9 cognizance of matters relating to public health concerning the results
10 of the study described in subsection (a) of this section. Such report
11 shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Hospitalization and
12 hospital readmission rates for persons with chronic obstructive
13 pulmonary disease in the state; (2) a description of current activities by
14 state agencies to promote awareness and education by health care

15 providers and the general public on chronic obstructive pulmonary
 16 disease, including, but not limited to, (A) the causes of the disease, (B)
 17 the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, (C) effective
 18 prevention strategies, and (D) management of the disease; (3) an
 19 assessment of the need for community-based services for persons
 20 having the disease; and (4) recommendations concerning (A) the
 21 necessity and feasibility of conducting a needs assessment with respect
 22 to the disease, (B) hosting an annual summit on the disease, (C)
 23 development of a pilot program to determine best practices and
 24 outcomes and to lower hospital readmission rates for persons with the
 25 disease, and (D) identification of the amount of funding and potential
 26 funding sources for the pilot program described in subparagraph (C)
 27 of this subdivision.

28 (c) The Commissioner of Public Health shall, within available
 29 appropriations, post on the Department of Public Health's Internet
 30 web site information concerning chronic obstructive pulmonary
 31 disease from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 32 and other information that the commissioner believes may aid persons
 33 with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in talking with such
 34 persons' health care providers about the disease.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Up to 28,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to study chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), in consultation with the Department of Social Services and the Connecticut Hospital Association, and details the information and recommendations that must be included in the report to the General Assembly. To conduct this study and report the agency would incur a cost of up to \$28,000 in FY 16 for a consultant to undertake these tasks.

It should be noted that the bill requires that the study and report be provided within available appropriations. It does not appear that this mandates that the agency perform the activity regardless of available funding, therefore the cost described above is potential.

The Out Years

Since the study is to be completed in FY 16, there is no fiscal impact in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5903*****AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the public health (DPH) commissioner, within available appropriations, to study chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). She must do so in consultation with the social services commissioner and representatives of the Connecticut Hospital Association. The bill requires her to report on the study's results to the Public Health Committee by February 1, 2016.

The bill also requires the DPH commissioner, within available appropriations, to post certain information about COPD on the department's website. This includes information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other information that she believes may help people with COPD in talking with their health care providers about the disease.

COPD is a group of diseases, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis, that cause difficulty with airflow and breathing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

REPORT OF COPD STUDY

Under the bill, the DPH commissioner's report must include:

1. hospitalization and readmission rates for state residents who have COPD;
2. current activities by state agencies to promote awareness and education by health care providers and the general public on the disease, including its causes; the importance of early diagnosis

and treatment; effective prevention strategies, and disease management; and

3. an assessment of the need for community-based services for people with COPD.

The report must also include recommendations on:

1. the need and feasibility of conducting a needs assessment with respect to COPD;
2. hosting an annual summit on the disease;
3. developing a pilot program to determine best practices and outcomes and to lower hospital readmission rates; and
4. identifying the amount of funding, and potential funding sources, for such a pilot program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 1 (03/27/2015)